



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 12

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

March 26, 2004



Two Airmen from the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron prepare an MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter for "Alert," here. The 16th HMXS has been named as having the most effective rotary-wing maintenance program in the Air Force for the second year in a row.

Courtesy photo

16th HMXS garners prestigious award

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

The 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron was recently honored with the 2003 Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award in the rotary wing category for the second consecutive year.

The award is a culmination of maintenance achievements performed between October 2002 through September 2003.

During this time, unit members flew more than 5,000 hours at home station and while in combat with a 90 percent mission capable rate, surpassing the command's goal by 15 percent. The unit deployed 640,000 tons of special-

ized cargo and equipment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Exemplary maintenance leadership ensured 522 combat sorties, totaling 1,346 hours flown with a 100 percent mission effectiveness rate, despite being attacked by 14 Iraqi ballistic missiles.

In keeping with their motto "PAVE LOW Leads," the 16th HMXS also performed nighttime infiltration, securing Iraq's southern oil fields prior to opening rounds of hostilities; this resulted in the first combat mission of the war.

The nomination package also cited two no-notice combat searches and rescue missions generating two helicopters within minutes;

their efforts helped recover two combat wounded soldiers from enemy territory. The Special Operations Forces also executed two alert aircraft in 20 minutes, saving the lives of eight Marines wounded in a ground exercise.

In simply carrying out their mission, the 16th HMXS garnered a notable award, something unit members are very proud of.

"We were very surprised; you just don't win an outstanding award twice," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Key, 16th HMXS. "It's a very significant accomplishment."

The award will be presented at the 2003 Air Force Maintenance Awards banquet in Washington, D.C., April 8.

Wing protocol specialist says farewell after long, distinguished career

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

After more than four decades of federal service, the 16th Special Operations Wing's protocol specialist bids farewell.

Jeannie Krzan has been in charge of the wing's protocol office for the last five years and a commander's secretary for 10 years. Before her official retirement April 1, she gives a memorable look back on her career.

"I'm ready to retire," Ms. Krzan said. "It's been a very fast 41 years, especially the last five. I'm going to miss the people in the wing because they've been my family for the past 15 years."

The Washington D.C. native started her career back in 1968, with a federal home loan bank and later went on to work for the U.S. Post Office, before taking a secretarial position at Eglin Air Force Base in 1971.

After 18 years at Eglin AFB, Ms. Krzan made the move to Hurlburt Field as the wing commander's secretary in 1989, before taking charge of the protocol office.

But, it was here in protocol that Ms. Krzan added her own special touch, by making sure every wing ceremony and event was given her undivided attention. As the wing protocol special-

See **SPECIALIST**, Page 3



Jeannie Krzan

AFAF

AFAF deadline approaching

As the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign comes to a close April 9, Hurlburt Field personnel are encouraged to send in their last minute donation forms. As of now, the base has raised \$79,956 which is 69 percent of the \$110,667 goal. For more information, contact your unit AFAF representative.

Feature

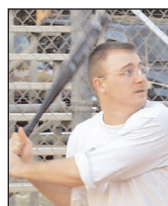


Family Fest 2004

Thousands show up for annual festival

Page 14

Sports



Softball tournament

Fourteen teams go head-to-head Saturday

Page 13

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – partly cloudy, High 76 Low 59

Saturday – partly cloudy, High 76 Low 59

Sunday – partly cloudy, High 78 Low 60



www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day

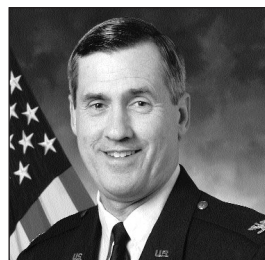
Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Break the 'chain of events'

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW commander

Two people died last weekend as a result of a high-speed automobile accident.

The driver of one of the vehicles involved was a 21-year-old Airman assigned to the 16th Special Operations Wing. The young Airman – allegedly intoxicated – survived the accident, but his passenger and the

driver of another vehicle were killed.

This type of unnecessary risk taking is dangerous, irresponsible, and has horrific consequences. It must stop, and I call upon all 16th SOW Airmen to get involved in the effort to reduce – if not eliminate – this behavior.

If we continue along the current path, we're going to see more people hurt and more people killed. Nothing could be more tragic and wasteful.

Many people here fly and work on airplanes. They understand that, as in all aircraft accidents, a chain of events leads to every dangerous situation. We have to use our risk assessment skills not only at work, but off duty as well, to break the chain of unsafe events.

Supervisors, please talk to your people and help them to make sound decisions. We have to know what our young people are doing, why they're doing it, and whether they're going to be safe doing it.

We still have Airmen between 19 and 24 years old out there hurting themselves and others by drinking

and driving. We have to ensure this at-risk group understands the responsibilities that come with alcohol use.

The wing has a new tool to help us combat drunk driving, the Contract of Commitment program. The Contract of Commitment is an agreement between six Airmen to call on each other to provide rides from any location should a member of the group find themselves unfit to drive.

The six-month agreement is open to all Airmen of drinking age ranging from airman basic to staff sergeant, and all participants will receive a day off as incentive for successful completion of a contract. I highly encourage all Airmen and supervisors to support this new program that is administered by Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

The U.S. Air Force is a world-class organization, but we're hurting ourselves here at home with unnecessary risks. I implore everyone to continue to beat the safety awareness drum, and break the chain of events leading to such tragic results.

Six ways to get home safe:

- Call AADD at 884-8844
 - Call your commander or first sergeant via the command post, at 884-8100
 - Call a friend to pick you up:
- Name: _____
Number: _____
- Join the Contract of Commitment program. For details, call Tech. Sgt. James Eddington at 884-8485.
 - Drink responsibly and use a designated driver
 - Don't drink if you have no safe means of getting home

We're all Airmen with a capital 'A'

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

I am an Airman.

Note that's with a capital "A." It's just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it's capitalized is simple: Airmen in the U.S. Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important – like our own name, hometown and country.

This was reinforced through our education and professional life.

When we see a capital letter, our minds automatically emphasize that word, and we bestow an increased importance on that person, place or thing. It's time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word "Airman." It's appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies.

Capitalizing the word "Airman" recognizes their historic achievements,

and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America's wars. It shows we've earned the respect that a proper name imparts.

For 38 years of my life, I've been proud to wear the uniform of the U.S. Air Force. And, whether you've worn it as long as I have or just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride.

Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket and whether we're active-duty, Guard, Reserve or civilian, first and foremost, we're Airmen.

We're one Air Force, and we're Airmen.

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Submitting articles

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Address information

U.S. MAIL: COMMANDO,
131 Bartley St. Ste. 326,
Hurlburt Field, FL. 32544-5271
E-MAIL: commando@hurlburt.af.mil
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464
FAX: (850) 884-6093

COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

Col. O.G. Mannon
Commander

Capt. Thomas Knowles
Chief, Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Darrell Brewer
NCOIC

Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook Jr.
Chief, Internal Information

Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Editor

Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Staff writer

Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Staff writer

Vanessa Adame
Layout and design

16th Communications Squadron
Photography

Northwest Florida Daily News
Production support

DUI Tracker

March 19-25: 2 DUIs
(This year: 19)

DUIs for 2003: 53

Last DUI: 16th Aircraft
Maintenance Squadron

Airmen Against Drunk Driving
Don't Drink and Drive. Call 884-8844
Potential saves this year: 134

16th OG39	16th MSG35
16th MXG4	16th MDG39

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of March 25.



Weapons squadron opens new doors for training

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

They've held different unit names and shared facilities with other organizations on base, but after their ribbon-cutting ceremony March 17, the 14th Weapons Squadron opened the doors to their own facility.

The new facility, located on the east side of Hurlburt Field, is temporary housing until their new permanent building is constructed.

The weapons squadron, a tenant unit of the 16th Special Operations Wing, is the largest of the 14 squadrons within the U.S. Air Force

Weapons School, headquartered at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

The squadron's mission is to produce highly trained Air Force Special Operations Command weapons officers, by providing advanced tactical training to officer crewmembers in the AC-130H/U Gunship, MC-130E/H/P Talon and MH-53M PAVE LOW mission design series aircraft.

The goal of the weapons squadron is to produce weapons officers who are experts in their own mission design series aircraft as well as being well versed in all AFSOC weapons systems, Special Operations Forces ground unit operations, and SOF inte-

gration with combat and mobility Air Force forces.

The weapons instructor courses at Hurlburt Field require support from AFSOC and the 16th SOW because the weapons squadron doesn't have dedicated aircraft for training. The students and instructors rely on aircraft, maintenance and crews from associated operational squadrons in order to accomplish course objectives.

Being housed in their new building enables the unit to conduct their mission and reach their goals more effectively.

(Editor's note: The 14th WPS contributed to this story.)

SPECIALIST, Continued from Page 1

ist, Jeannie (as she's called in her office) was responsible for ensuring distinguished visitors to the 16th SOW were provided the proper courtesies suiting their visit. One might say Jeannie "rolled out the red carpet."

Jeannie, however, did more than just the norm. She incorporated little touches of comfort, such as hand sewn seat covers, decorative pillows and home made baked goods that she used to make visitors feel welcome.

"I truly admire Jeannie," said Patricia White, 16th Mission Support Squadron and long time friend. "She works many long, tireless hours always putting the 'Jeannie touch' to everything. She's such a calm individual, always standing in the background, waiting to do whatever is needed."

"I've known Jeannie for more than 20 years," said Laura Ogles, Air Force Special Operations Command and best friend. "She's a hard working, loyal perfectionist, who put her heart and soul into Special Operations. She's reveled in our successes and mourned our losses. She's truly a support officer with a warrior's heart, who'll be terribly missed."

Jeannie said there have been several events throughout the years that have touched her, but having Hurlburt Field selected as the 2003 Chief of Staff's Installation Excellence award recipient is one that really stands out for her.

"One of the most memorable events was the planning for the Chief of Staff's Installation Excellence team visit," Jeannie said. "We had to do it back to back because we were selected to compete two years in a row before we actually won in 2003. It was a lot of hard work, and everyone really put so much into it."

"It was a very proud moment for me to be able to travel to D.C. with other wing members to receive the award."



Jeannie Krzan (left) shakes hands with maintenance Airmen while receiving a tour of Hurlburt Field aircraft, March 19. She retires after more than four decades of federal service, with 15 years working for the 16th Special Operations Wing.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas

Jeannie, who's worked for 11 wing commanders throughout her 15 years with the wing said, "If there's one piece of advice I'd like to pass on, it would be to keep the bosses happy, and everything else will fall into place."

The wing commander, Col. O.G. Mannon, ensured that the person who's provided distinguished visits to so many, was extended the same courtesies before her last day with the wing ended March 19.

"Jeannie has always worked hard to ensure our most distinguished guests get the treatment and considerations they deserve," said Colonel Mannon. "For the remarkable service Jeannie has given her country, and the strong character she's always displayed, it's an honor to give her the distinguished send-off she deserves."

After lunch with co-workers, Jeannie was mock-arrested by security forces and sent on a first-class, base-wide tour to see and do some of the things she's helped so many others experience.

From a fire department fire truck ride, grinding a set of eye glass lenses

and learning to drill a set of teeth at the medical/dental clinic, to an MH-53 PAVE LOW helicopter flight with the 20th Special Operations Squadron, Jeannie was finally able to see what she's helped other DVs experience during her time in the protocol office. Her day ended with a social/dinner at Gator Lakes Clubhouse that evening.

"It was the most incredible day of my life – one I'll never forget," Jeannie said. "I appreciate it so much, and I'd like to thank everyone involved."

As Jeannie looks ahead on the next chapter of her life, she's taking it day by day.

"I don't have any definite plans," she said. "I'm just going to relax and take it easy for awhile. I love to volunteer with Munch and Mend, and I have some house projects I'd like to work on as well as take a few vacations. So, I have enough to keep me going for a little while."

"I'd like to thank everyone in the wing for the job they do," Jeannie said. "They're just awesome people, and the support they've given me over the past five years has been remarkable."

Spotlight on ...

Lilia Hummel

Rank/Duty Title: Senior Airman/customer service representative

Organization: 16th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Camuy, Puerto Rico

Hobbies: Going to the gym and the beach, self-improvement and building leadership skills

Contribution to the mission:

Highlighting her outstanding customer service skills, Airman Hummel has been personally cited through many surveys and e-mails for her professionalism and positive attitude. She's always there when you need her, willing to learn and consistently goes the extra mile for her customers.

Airman Hummel, a staff sergeant select who's currently attending Airman Leadership School, was key to the success in her unit's recent Unit Compliance Inspection – her section received zero errors. In addition, her professionalism and hard work were evident in her selection as the 16th MSS Airman of the Year for 2003.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

Korea vets' recognized with medal

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER – A new defense medal will be issued to military members who served in the Republic of Korea, or adjacent waters, after July 28, 1954 – including those serving there today and those serving up to a not-yet-determined future date.

The Korea Defense Service Medal, not to be confused with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a new medal that'll be awarded to active-duty members, Reservists, Guardsmen, veterans and retirees who were assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating or serving on all the land area of the Republic of Korea, and the continuous waters to 12 nautical miles from shore and all airspace above those areas.

Individuals will only be awarded one KDSM regardless of time spent in Korea, said personnel officials. The medal doesn't have any associated promotion points under the weighted airman promotion system. It's directly above the Armed Forces Service Medal in precedence.

Applying for the KDSM varies:

■Active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel – The KDSM will be issued by servicing military personnel flights beginning this fall. Questions should be addressed to the contact

center, DSN 665-5000 or (800) 616-3775.

■Veterans, retirees and next of kin – May claim entitlement by writing to the National Personnel Records Center:

**9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

Requests should include documents clearly proving service and dates in Korea such as orders, performance reports, DD214, flight records, decorations citation or other official documents. For more information, call the NPRC customer service center at (314) 801-0800.

■Reserve and Guard veterans and retirees and next of kin – Requests must be submitted with supporting documentation to:

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center

**6760 Irvington Place 4000
Denver, CO 80280-4000**

Reserve and Guard veterans and retirees under the age of 60 should address questions to HQ ARPC by calling (303) 679-6134.

■Reserve and Guard veterans and retirees over 60 years old and next of kin – Requests must be sent to the NPRC with supporting documentation. For more information, call the NPRC customer service center at (314) 801-0800.



News Briefs



Local News JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University invites all Special Operations personnel to attend the Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course April 5-9. This course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the African continent, those who work with individuals from this region, and personnel with a professional or analytical interest in the African continent. For more information, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731 or Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>.

California ANG

The Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Field, Calif., has traditional and full-time Guard vacancies in the following career fields: MC-130 crew chief, HH-60 crew chief and avionics. For more information about career openings or ANG benefits, call Master Sgt. Rex Aquino at DSN 359-9571 or commercial (650) 603-9571 or e-mail rex.aquino@comoff.af.mil.



Air Force News Roche stays AF

In a Secretary's Vector titled, "Service Before Self,"

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche discusses his withdrawal of his nomination to serve as Secretary of the Army.

As reasons for his withdrawal, he cites:

■With a busy legislative schedule in the Senate this year and the range of issues it'll consider, it's not likely his nomination would be considered any time soon

■The Air Force has many challenging issues on its agenda this year

■The Army needs its full complement of senior leadership

SECAF looks forward to staying with the Air Force.

Managing distressed

This spring, Air Force squadron commanders and first sergeants will get a copy of the "Leader's Guide to Managing Personnel in Distress." The guide will help them:

■Recognize distress-related behaviors

■Provide support to individuals within the unit

■Collaborate with helping agencies to meet the needs of individuals in distress

Air Force leaders are encouraged to use awareness and intervention strategies before a person reaches the threshold of debilitating distress, as indicated by emotional difficulties, alcohol or substance abuse, violence or behaviorally linked accidents and mishaps.

Women's History Month: *Living History* Civilian sees equal opportunity for all in Air Force

**By Senior Airman Taylor
Public Affairs**

After working nearly 18 years for the Air Force, senior female civilian employee Susana McKee has seen as equal an opportunity to advance her career as anyone else.

The highest-ranking civilian woman on Hurlburt Field, Mrs. McKee, a GS-14, has worked for the 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron for three years. But her Air Force career began at Eglin Air Force Base in 1986, where she started out as a GS-4.

She said there's been rapid improvement in equality since she began her career.

"There have been a lot of changes for the better, and the military has been fantastic," said Mrs. McKee. "I've been treated the same as any guy, and I don't perceive the 'glass ceiling' you hear about in industry."

During her career, Mrs. McKee has worked exclusively as an operational analyst and tester, both at Eglin AFB and here. Now, she oversees the operational testing and

evaluation of command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance weapons systems.

Just because there's no

"glass ceiling" in the Air Force doesn't mean opportunities are going to just drop in your lap, said Mrs. McKee. Whether a man or a woman, she said people must take care of themselves in their careers if they want to progress.

"No one will hand you the perfect job in the perfect opportunity," she said. "You have to seek out the training you need to open that door."

Getting a good grasp on what you do for the Air Force can also help steer your career in the right direction, she said. "You need to get an idea of what part of the 'big picture' you're in, and you'll understand and appreciate your contribution to what we do."

**Susana
McKee**

Famous women in U.S. history

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was the niece of President Theodore Roosevelt and the wife of

President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Born into a privileged class, she became a successful social activist, party leader, teacher and journalist. By the time she entered the White House, these experiences and the networks she had established helped her to transform the role of First Lady.

Champion of domestic social reform, economic justice and human rights, Mrs. Roosevelt believed citizenship demanded participation. "We'll be the sufferers if we let great wrongs occur without



**Eleanor
Roosevelt**

exerting ourselves to correct them."

Far from basking in reflected glory, she remains today probably the most dynamic, broadly effective and controversial First Lady in American history.

She was the foremost First Lady to hold regular press conferences and to routinely travel the nation. Her life after President Roosevelt's death was equally productive.

At home, she was a civil rights activist ahead of her time. As a member of the first American delegation to the United Nations, she played the essential role in the drafting and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Her commitment to justice often placed her at risk and made her an easy target for zealous critics. In 1961, President John Kennedy appointed her chair of the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

Honoring those who honor others

Honor guard spotlights their very best

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard honored its own during an awards ceremony March 12 at the Soundside Club.

"We take a night off from serving and honoring others and our guardsmen become the honorees," said Staff Sgt. Marlon Carcamo, honor guard NCO.

During the ceremony, honor guard members were honored for their hard work and unselfish dedication. Five airmen in particular received individual awards for going above and beyond in service, Sergeant Carcamo said.

The top award given, the Timmothy M. Dickens, Ceremonial Guardsman the Year, which is given to the guardsman who demonstrated the highest level of competency, leadership and knowledge and recognized as the ultimate "ceremonial guardsman," was awarded to Staff Sgt. Jeff Burchfield, 20th Special Operations Squadron.

The Military Excellence Award, which is given to the member who consistently demonstrates the highest level of adherence to AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance* and the honor guard uniform standards, was awarded to Staff Sgt. Luis Lozano-Lebron, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Senior Airman Jamieson Ross, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, received the Drill Team of the Year Award for being the drill member who consistently demonstrated superior weapons control and mastery of drill movements.

The last two awards, "A" and "B" Flight Guardsman of the Year, were given to individuals within the two separate flights who contributed the most to the overall success of the flight. Senior Airman Adam Burnett, 16th Communications Squadron, was nominated for the "A" Flight and Senior Airman Aleksandr Ilin, 16th LRS, for the "B" Flight.

The ceremony, however, was not only to recognize the top-notch guardsmen, but to also recognize the accomplishments of the honor guard as a whole.

This past year, the honor guard has sent one member to train in Washington D.C. with the Air Force Honor Guard, four members to participate



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andy Kin

Hurlburt Field Honor Guard members demonstrate their skills during a drill exercise at the honor guard awards ceremony March 12.

in Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche's Order of the Sword ceremony, and was invited to Naples, Fla., to perform for the Civil Air Patrol cadets, present the colors at the opening ceremony and march in the city's parade.

"The proficiency level and morale of the team are at an all-time high," Sergeant Carcamo said. "There's nothing you can ask these guys that they won't do. In one word, (these guardsmen are)...outstanding."

"The support we've been receiving from our senior leadership, professional organizations, commanders, chiefs, first sergeants and supervisors has been phenomenal," he said. "There's no better time to join the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard than now."

**OWCC
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4 X 7.00**

CONS officer named best in Air Force

By Beverly Weaver
16th Contracting Squadron

A contracting officer with the 16th Contracting Squadron was named the Air Force's Outstanding Contracting Civilian of the Year. On the same day he was notified of the Air Force award, he was also named the Hurlburt Field Civilian of the Year.

Chris Wentworth, chief of the Base Infrastructure Flight, 16th CONS, was credited with leading the flight, which supports the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, in executing \$32 million in requirements – a 60 percent increase over fiscal year 2002 – despite critical civilian vacancies and five flight members who were deployed a total of 400 days.

Mr. Wentworth was also the "linchpin" in Hurlburt Field's winning the FY 2003 Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award. He was the team leader who led the most diverse team in the 16th Special Operations Wing and represented the base at the award presentation at the Pentagon.

Not only is Mr. Wentworth a top-notch contracting officer, he's also a considerate boss. He initiates care packages, meets planes and mows lawns of deployed members, invites spouses to all squadron functions and ensures all employees' birthdays are celebrated.

Mr. Wentworth holds a Master of Science degree in Management from Troy State University and is currently enrolled in Squadron Officers School. He organized an SOS study group for the squadron, ordered course materials for 18 members and led the first study group.

Community activities are a big part of Mr. Wentworth's life. He's a member of Hurlburt Field's volunteer program, is assistant coach for his daughter's softball league and is a compassionate hospice volunteer.

Maj. Mark Baird, 16th

CONS commander, said, "No task is too large or too complex for Chris. From serving as the facility manager of the squadron to leading one of the Installation Excellence Teams, his work is superb. Chris has initiated many morale-boosting facility improvements, which included new carpet, renovating bathrooms and command suite upgrades.

"He does much more than serve as a contracting officer and flight chief. He has more than earned this prestigious award," Major Baird said.

"This award wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the members of the flight," Mr. Wentworth said upon notification. "We have a group of

truly professional contracting people, who are committed to supporting the



Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

Chris Wentworth, chief of the Base Infrastructure Flight, 16th Contracting Squadron, was selected as the Air Force's Outstanding Contracting Civilian of the Year and Hurlburt Field's Civilian of the Year.

mission of Air Force Special Operations Command and the Air Force."

Molly Yow, former deputy of the 16th CONS, who is now the chief of policy for AFSOC, nominated Mr. Wentworth for the award.

"The energy and determination of Chris are exemplary. He strives for perfection for any task he's given," Mrs. Yow said. "His contracting knowledge and skills are second to none, and his willingness to support the mission is extremely noteworthy. He's a credit to Hurlburt Field and the Air Force."

The award will be formally presented at the Air Force Contracting Awards Program at the Pentagon in April.

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Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre
Senior Airman Joshua English, 16th Security Forces Squadron, shows Girl Scout Troop #226 how to operate sirens and activate lights on a patrol car. The Daisy Troop earned a petal for learning to respect authority.

Girl Scouts get lesson in security at Hurlburt Field

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

At least a dozen area Girl Scouts got a lesson in safety, authority, security and fun when they visited Hurlburt Field March 17.

Girl Scout Troop #226, ranging in ages 5 to 10, toured the 16th Security Forces Squadron in an effort to learn to respect authority figures and also in conjunction with Women's History Month.

During the two-hour visit, the Florosa Elementary School students were fingerprinted, met McGruff the Crime Dog, saw a K-9 demonstration and got to see some of the security forces equipment, including a patrol boat, an all-terrain vehicle, a HUMVEE, and perhaps the most interesting of all: they had a chance to see the inside of a real patrol car.

"They had a blast," said troop leader Karen Kleyla-Cook. "Not only did they have fun playing with the lights and sirens on the patrol cars, but they really

got to see the work security forces do and learned they're authority figures who should be respected," she said.

The event also provided security forces a chance to welcome the future women of America, said 2nd Lt. Dan Nuqui, 16th SFS.

"We thought this would be an excellent opportunity to teach them outside of the classroom, while still making it fun and enjoyable," he said.

This is one of several events the unit has participated in this month in an attempt to promote community relations between Hurlburt Field and the local area. Other events include sending security forces policewomen to the child development center to speak to children about women in the career field, participating in the annual Family Fest and arranging tours for visiting Reserve Officers' Training Corps detachments.

As for the girl scouts, Lieutenant Nuqui says the unit looks forward to seeing more of them in the future; Ms. Kleyla-Cook has the same agenda.



Photo by Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller

A team of "Horsemen" from the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron replaces and repairs the screening around the Enlisted Hooch's deck, March 12.

Spring cleaning for Enlisted Hooch

By Master Sgt. Ginger Schreitmueller

Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs

The building's history is sketchy, with some rumors that it was a hideout for Al Capone in the late '20s.

Just as Elliot Ness and the "Untouchables" cleaned up the gangsters, Hurlburt Field Airmen gathered at the building for the annual Enlisted Hooch clean up, March 12.

More than 85 Airmen from across base and retirees brought power tools and an ample supply of elbow grease to the event, sponsored by the Hurlburt Field Top 3 and Chiefs Groups.

The focus of the day was to do a top-to-bottom, inside-outside spring-cleaning, said the chairman for the event.

"Each year, we set aside a day in early spring to fix up the Hooch," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Thurman. "There was a great deal of work to be done to the interior and exterior, and Airman from across the base showed up ready to work."

According to the chief, long before the noon kickoff, Airman from the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron showed up to conquer one of the biggest projects.

"Folks from RED HORSE called first thing in the morning and asked if they could head over to the Hooch to start repairs on the screened porch," said Chief Thurman. "By noon, they had put up all new screening and trim, as well as a new screen door. They were an incredible help in improving the overall appearance of the Hooch."

Teams from the 720th Special Tactics Group, Chiefs Groups, Top 3 and several retirees also pitched in to rake, weed and edge the outside grounds, and prep the inside and outside of the building for a fresh coat of paint.

"It was amazing the amount of work we did in one afternoon," said Master Sgt. Mike Garrouette, Hurlburt Field Top 3 vice president. "This year, without a doubt, we had the largest turnout of volunteers we've seen."

By March 16, the majority of projects were complete, said the chief.

"There are a few things we'll need to finish as we go along, such as the final touches on waterproofing and staining the back deck," said Chief Thurman. "All in all, we accomplished a great deal."

Along with thanking the volunteers for their support, Chief Thurman also acknowledged the efforts of the 16th Services Squadron for purchasing the materials and supplies needed to make the repairs. The club staff also provided free food and beverages for the volunteers throughout the afternoon.

"The end result of the cleanup is a first-class facility we can all be proud of," said Chief Thurman. "This is our Enlisted Hooch, and everyone's help with the cleanup is a true reflection of what teamwork can accomplish."

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PJs aid Army in search for missing pilots

By Staff Sgt. Trevor Tiernan
347th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

When a U.S. Army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed recently while flying along the Tigris River near Mosul, it came down 100 feet from the shore.

On-scene U.S. Army Soldiers were unable to locate survivors, so they called in Air Force Pararescuemen and combat rescue officers to assist.

First Lts. Brinton Lincoln and Matt McGuinness, both combat rescue officers assigned to the Joint Search and Rescue Center based in Qatar, launched the 347th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron on the mission.

CRO Capt. Chadwick Sterr, and PJs Tech. Sgt. Brandon Casteel, Staff Sgts. Gabe Ruff, Armin Sahrai, Jeff Hedglin and Joe Spadavecchia, and Senior Airman Chris Mulch flew to an area near the crash site. They were then driven by convoy to the crash scene along the banks of the Tigris.

While the team members were ready and prepared for the job at hand, according to Captain Sterr, they were also acutely aware of the situation and the severity of their mission.

"We were in the middle of Iraq and were getting tasked for a second water mission in less than 30 days," said Captain Sterr. "The bad part about this job is that when we get called, something has gone wrong for someone else."

"It's the middle of the night in a hostile zone in Iraq, and the Pararescuemen are going to get into water moving at one meter per second," said Captain Sterr. "The water is 41 degrees and has zero visibility. The helicopter is completely submerged, and the 50-caliber machine gun and rocket pods are still armed. Not to mention, it already claimed other's lives."

Prior to the team arriving, an Iraqi diver dove down to the wreck and reported finding something. While Captain Sterr coordinated command and control and additional security, Sergeant Casteel established his control over mission operations and briefed his team.

He chose Sergeant Ruff and Airman Mulch to perform the initial search dive of the helicopter and Sergeant Sahrai as a safety diver. Sergeants Hedglin and Spadavecchia set up aircraft salvage and towing operations on shore.

Sergeant Casteel supervised the dive from an Iraqi search boat, while Sergeant Ruff and Airman Mulch dove to the wreck. They returned to the surface and reported that no pilots were in the helicopter. The team then initiated salvage operations.

Sergeant Ruff and Airman Mulch attached towlines around the helicopter's main drive shaft so an Iraqi boat could pull it to shore.

With the wreckage closer to the shoreline, Sergeant Sahrai and Airman Mulch again searched the helicopter. Finally, with no sign of the pilots, they attached lifting chains between the aircraft and an awaiting Army Downed Aircraft Recovery Team vehicle to remove the hulk from the river.

The Army continued searching for the pilots with their salvage dive teams and Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel.

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Adam Pope, 38th Rescue Squadron, contributed to this article.)

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Special Ops gets revved-up for NASCAR

By Army Spc. Jennifer Eidson
U.S. Army Special Operations Command

HAMPTON, Ga. – In front of thousands of cheering NASCAR fans, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from the U.S. Special Operations Command helped jump-start the Golden Corral 500 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway March 14.

The race provided an opportunity for the command's warriors to demonstrate the quality of their equipment and skills, said Gen. Bryan Brown, commanding general of USSOCOM, which is based at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Pre-race activities kicked-off with flyovers that included an Air Force MC-130 aircraft from the 9th Special Operations Squadron, Duke Field, Fla., and MH-47 Chinook and MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).

"When we popped up over the stadium for the run," said Master Sgt. Daniel Jessup, 16th Civil Engineering Squadron, "a wall of noise from the fans hit us. The crowd was so loud; I couldn't hear the rotors from the (Little Bird) MH-6 helicopter I was on."

Fans watched a video of Special Operators at work, followed by the landing of a Chinook carrying the official pace car for the race. A Black Hawk and three MH-6 Little Bird helicopters then flew General Brown and 12 other Special Operations warriors to the track.

"We're pleased to have the Special Operations warriors with us for race festivities at the Golden Corral 500," said Bob McDevitt, senior vice president of marketing for Golden Corral. "We recognize the importance of our armed forces veterans, and we celebrate their service, patriotism and love of country."

The fans' reaction to the service members was unbelievable, said Army Sgt. Jimmie Crutcher, an aircraft special repairman with the 160th SOAR (A).

"The people cheering you on, giving you a thumbs-up and just their overall response was incredible," Sergeant Crutcher said. "This was a lot of fun, and I had a great time doing it."

The Special Operations forces at the race represented elements of the Army, Air Force and Navy and included service members from the 160th SOAR (A), the 75th Ranger Regiment, the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), the 21st STS, the 16th Special Operations Wing and the U.S. Navy Special Warfare Command. **(AFSOC News)**



Photo by Walt Sokalski

Gen. Bryan Brown, pictured sixth from left, and Special Operations service members react to a standing ovation from the crowd at the Atlanta Motor Speedway during the Golden Corral 500 NASCAR race, March 14.

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Photo by Airman James Dickens

Batter up!

Ricky Walker, 16th Mission Support Squadron intramural softball team, gets ready to take a swing during a scrimmage game, Wednesday. Hurlburt Field's 2004 intramural softball season kicked off the same day. Fans are invited to the first Commando Softball Pre-season Softball Tournament, at the Hurlburt Field softball complex, Saturday. The double-elimination tournament features 14 teams competing for the top trophy and bragging rights.

Getting fit sets good example

By Staff Sgt. Robert Zoellner
33rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. —

When the Air Force unveiled its new exercise program many Airmen didn't think much of it. For others it was an eye-opening incentive to get in shape.

That's what Master Sgt. Michael Moss of the 33rd Maintenance Squadron's aerospace ground equipment flight thought. Six months ago, Sergeant Moss was overweight and couldn't run half of the required distance to pass the new fitness test. Now he's setting the example for his flight and feeling better than he ever has.

"I started off not being able to make a full run," Sergeant Moss said. "[I would] run half way there and walk the rest of the way back. I wasn't in shape, by (any) means."

Through a vigorous exercise program he began in November that includes crunches, pushups and running, and by watching his diet and cutting out junk foods, Sergeant Moss has dropped more than 20 pounds. Now he's challenging younger Airmen in his flight to get in shape.

"I needed to set an example," he said. "I took the program seriously."

Before the new fitness standards, Sergeant Moss said he had no problem passing the cycle ergometry test. He said that was easy to get by since he was up and down stairs 20 to 30 times a day. His legs were strong but he was hovering around 200 pounds, which was over his maximum weight standard.

His initial thought about the new fitness program was that he was meeting the minimum standards, why did he have to go run? But after some thought, he changed his mind about getting in shape.

"Once you get started on the program, you say, 'Man, why weren't we doing this before,'" he said. "Because you feel better and you feel better about yourself. I see the importance of staying fit. The more I do, the better I feel."

The entire AGE flight exercises three times a week in a program managed by their flight superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. June Robbins. She said they all keep track of their progress and know where they stand when their time comes to test, but it is always good to see the results first hand.

"It gives you a lot of satisfaction to see someone like Mike," she said about his noticeable improvements. "He's lost the weight on his own, and then his run time has reduced drastically because of the weight loss."

"It usually took 15 to 16 minutes," Sergeant Moss said about his 1.5 mile run times. "I took my test the other day and I am already down to 12:38."

This increase in his overall fitness level has given him a more positive outlook.

"Feeling positive about yourself (is) uplifting," he said. His goal is to continue to exercise and challenge his flight.

"I want to increase my time and I want to beat the youngest Airmen in my flight," he said. (AFPN)

Sports shorts

Youth ball players needed

The youth center has extended registration for youth softball and baseball, all ages, except T-ball. For more information, call 884-6355.

Varsity softball tryouts

Tryouts for the Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team have begun. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774, or Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-2358.

Start Smart Baseball program

The youth center is conducting registration for the Start Smart Baseball program through April 2, for interested parents and children 3-5. The class will be held every Tuesday, April 6 through May 18, 2004.

The program uses instructors to help parents teach their own children the fundamentals and motor skills necessary for organized baseball via one-on-one coaching. The initial session is a parent training class, followed by six weeks for par-

ent-child coaching. For more information, call 884-6355.

Intramural golf season

Intramural golf will begin early this year, kicking off Thursday. For more information on golf or other intramural sports programs, contact your unit sports representative.

Bob Hope golf tournament

The first Bob Hope Memorial Charity Golf Classic is April 18-20 at Indian Bayou Golf and Country Club in Destin, Fla. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit organization providing housing and services to widows of Air Force enlisted members. Entry fee is \$300 per team, with a \$600 first prize purse.

Golfer amenities include 36 holes of golf and cart; daily driving range privileges; limited edition gifts of appreciation; and a private Nashville music concert and social.

Entry forms are available at all Fort Walton Beach and Destin golf courses, and on the AFEV Web site at www.afenlistedwidows.org, or call 651-3766.

5K Run/Walk

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is sponsoring a 5K run/walk April 10 at the Fort Walton Beach Landing. A children's Easter egg hunt will follow the event. For more information, call Mary Rominger at 651-7438 or e-mail mrominger@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

Steam room renovation

The men's steam room at the Aderholt Fitness Center will be closed for renovations through May 5.

Women's varsity softball

Players are needed for the women's varsity softball team. For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

McGruff the Crime Dog interacts with a child at Family Fest 2004 Saturday at the Community Park. Costume characters from children's books were seen walking around the park throughout the day handing out hugs, high-fives and autographs.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan



Family Fest 2004 draws thousands

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Thousands of families swarmed in to the year-old Hurlburt Field Community Park Saturday for a day of food, fun and baseball.

In honor of the newly established batting cages, Family Fest 2004 kicked off the day with a few words by Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander.

"Our new batting cages were

made possible by our 2003 Installation Excellence Award money," he said. "By early summer, the base is hoping to have an interactive fountain and track installed for parents and children to enjoy. This is a great place, and I'm glad to see such a great turnout. Thank you all for coming."

To break in the new addition, Colonel Mannon took a few swings in the cage before the crowd scattered across the park to explore the festivities.

Approximately 300 volunteers attended booths, dressed in character costumes and performed in the center pavilion, while parents led their children from one attraction to the next.

"This is so wonderful to see the Airmen serving the community," said one father, who was

touched by the service of the Hurlburt Field members. "It's a great thing you're all doing for the children. We appreciate your hard work."

Throughout the day were attractions that appealed to guests of all ages: pony rides, paintball, dance performances, train rides and baseball games.

Creation station was a must stop for crafts and face painting. The fire department also made a debut with the fire trucks, and the dunking booth continued to be a popular stop for most children.

Handing out hugs, autographs and candy, were child book characters that included the Berenstain Bear family, Where's Waldo, Dr. Seuss' the Cat in the Hat and Curious George.

Many of the costume characters are returning volunteers from last year's Family Fest. Airman 1st Class Brock Davis, 16th Operations Support Squadron, has volunteered to be Papa Berenstain Bear the past two years.



Photo by Airman Ali Flesik

A youth takes a break on the Rings of Fun before taking part in one of the Hurlburt Field intramural youth baseball games.



Photo by Airman Ali Flesik

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, takes the first swing in Hurlburt Field's new batting cages, the latest addition to the Community Park.

"I like doing the costume characters because it's really fun, and the kids love coming up to us for hugs or high-fives," Airman Davis said. "I love dancing around and having a good time while in costume. I'll definitely make it a tradition as long as I am here."

The festival, which had a turnout of approximately 3,500 people, was made possible by volunteers from the family support center, family advocacy, the 16th Services Squadron and several other base agencies.

Community

Air Commando Dining-out

The 16th Special Operations Wing is planning a dining-out May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. The event commemorates the 24th anniversary of Desert One operations. Tickets can be purchased through first sergeants starting Thursday.

Trespassing notice

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms section reminds people not to trespass on the firing ranges and impact areas located off Red Horse Road.

Trespassing is dangerous because of potential gunfire hazards including noise, live fire and being present in the impact area when firing isn't conducted. People must have clearance to enter the impact area. For more information, call 884-7520 or 884-7205.

Road closure

A portion of Letourneau Drive will be closed for force protection upgrades starting Thursday. The affected area runs from the base pool on McMillan Dr. and ends at the 3-way stop adjacent to J.R. Rockers. The street will be milled and portions will be resurfaced, with turnarounds installed.

Due to force protection requirements, the final configuration of Letourneau Drive will be altered. Traffic will be prohibited behind Building 90310; only foot traffic will be allowed. Services ball fields can be accessed through the parking lots for the pool and Building 90310. Additional ball field parking will be available upon completion of the project.

New electronic mailbox

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Equipment Liaison Office has established a central mailbox to better serve customers. E-mail comments to 16lrs.equipment@hurlburt.af.mil. Include your account number in the subject line. The Equipment Custodian Training Handbook is also available at the office. Office hours are as follows: Mondays through Thursdays from 8 to 10 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for appointments only. For more information, call Staff Sgt. James Lauder milk at 884-5731.

Festival of Nations

The second annual Festival of Nations is planned for Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Seville Square in Pensacola. The event is a multicultural celebration featuring food, dance, music and exhibits from around the world. For more information, visit www.pensacola-festivalofnations.org.

Honoring victims of crime

In observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department and West Florida Victim Witness Services Coalition are hosting a tribute commemorating victims and survivors of crime.

The event is scheduled April 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fort Walton Beach Landing and will feature food and live music. For more information, call Mary Rominger at 651-7438 or e-mail mrominger@sheriff-okaloosa.org.

Volunteer opportunities

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has volunteer opportunities available. For more information, e-mail Capt. Carol Blackington at carol.blackington@hurlburt.af.mil.

Toastmasters club

Hurlburt Field Toastmasters Club meets every Wednesday at noon in the education center, Building 90220, Classroom J. Toastmasters is designed to help individuals improve or develop speaking, listening and leadership skills through a positive learning environment. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-9130 or e-mail marty.mears@hurlburt.af.mil.

Volunteers needed

Mary Esther Elementary School needs volunteers for a few upcoming events. The events are listed below. For more information, call Senior Airman Heaven Lang at 884-6312.

- Walk-a-thon, Today, noon to 2:30 p.m.
- Carnival, April 3, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Field Day, April 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rodeo team

The local chapter of the Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association will meet Tuesday at Mama Rosa's located at 1826 Lewis Turner Boulevard. Riders are needed in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, calf roping, team roping, break-away roping, steer wrestling and barrel racing. For more information, call Capt. Sarah Edwards at 882-3819.

Focus 56 scholarship

Focus 56 is accepting applications for the Junior Enlisted Scholarship. Two \$100 scholarships will be awarded to active-duty or Reserve E-1 through E-6 Hurlburt Field Airmen. The deadline to submit an application is Monday. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Herbert Passmore at 884-2946 or Staff Sgt. James Lauder milk at 884-5731.

Education survey

The Hurlburt Field Education Services Center is conducting a survey until April 30 to help determine the needs of students. The survey is available at <https://afvec.langlely.af.mil/afvec>.

Volunteer recognition

The annual volunteer appreciation ceremony is scheduled for April 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. at The Soundside. Any group, volunteer agency or individual may nominate volunteers for the Angel or Volunteer Excellence Awards to be recognized for their contributions. Nomination packages are available at the family support center. Completed packages must be submitted today. For more information, call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

Volunteers needed

The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council is looking for volunteers for projects in support of Habitat for Humanity. The Hurlburt Field Airman's Council will be working on a project site April 24 from 7 to 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, e-mail Senior Airman Mary Kizzee at mary.kizzee@hurlburt.af.mil.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship)
11:30 a.m. (traditional)
12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August–May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., chapel annex

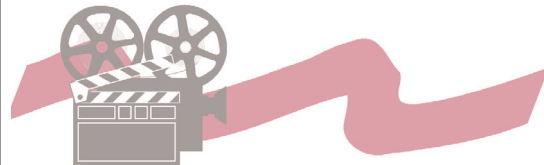
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday – (PG-13) *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*, starring Ice Cube and Cedric the Entertainer – Calvin struggles to keep his father's shop, while urban developers look to replace 'mom and pop' establishments with name-brand chains.

Saturday – (PG-13) *You Got Served*, starring Omari Grandberry and Marques Houston – Two hip-hop dancers friendship end up on the line when they face the biggest competition of the year.

Sunday – (PG-13) *Win a date with Ted Hamilton*, starring Kate Bosworth and Topher Grace – Rosie heads to Hollywood when she wins a dream date with the hottest bachelor. He gets a taste of the real world and sees what he's been missing.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG) *Miracle*, starring Kurt Russell and Patricia Clarkson – Based on a true story. A former Olympic winner assembles a team of underdogs and leads them to victory against undefeated Soviet hockey team.

Saturday – (PG-13) *Against the Ropes*, starring Meg Ryan and Omar Epps – Based on the real-life story of Jackie Kallen, who became a successful boxing manager. She works her way up in boxing by believing in the fighting skills of Luther Shaw.

Sunday – (PG) *Catch that Kid*, starring Kristen Stewart and Corbin Bleu – Three kids set out to rob one of the world's most impenetrable banks to save an ailing father.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled dates.)

Summer hire program

The Hurlburt Field summer hire program is accepting applications. To qualify, students must be enrolled in high school, vocational school or college and enrolled in at least a half-time course load.

Students must be at least 16 years old by May. A résumé is required for consideration. For information on how to apply, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs or call Pat White at 884-5212.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information on the following family support center classes call 884-5441.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Mapping Your Career – Monday, 1 p.m.

Smooth Move – Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Kids Smooth Move – Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following Health and Wellness classes, call 884-4292. Classes are free of charge and are held in Building 90232.

Healthy Living – Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Retiree CDP program fixing complications

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service issued “concurrent disability payments” to about 150,000 retirees Feb. 1.

As with any program of this magnitude, there’ll be some hiccups along the way that are delaying payments to some and causing some payment inaccuracies for others. Most should be ironed out in time.

Some more complex payment cases are still pending. These include individuals whose retired pay is divided with a former spouse under the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act, and those retirees with medical retirements from their parent services.

In the interest of getting the new CDPs to retirees as soon as possible, DFAS had to delay some computer programming required to allow personalization of the new program. For example, CDPs can’t yet be adjusted to allow individual tax rates or SBP premium deductions.

Forced into a “one-size fits all” mode for now, DFAS applied a straight 10 percent tax rate for all initial payments, even though DFAS officials understand that some retirees’ CDPs are supposed to be tax-free, and others would prefer to have more taxed withheld.

In time, the computer will be programmed to allow individual withholding. In the interim, affected members can ask DFAS to adjust withholding on their regular retired pay to offset any over- or under-withholding on the new CDPs.

Similarly, retirees who have been making separate payments to DFAS to cover their SBP premiums (usually because their disability offset eliminated all of their retired pay) will have to keep making those payments for now.

Again, over the next few months DFAS will reprogram the computer to allow individual premium deductions from CDP. (AFPN)

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